

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05193 040720Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9585

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EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE DAVIS

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SCUL, NI

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR USIS NIGERIA BUDGET INCREASE

REF: LAGOS 5145

1. I EMPHASITICALLY ENDORSE PAO HEDGES' ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF USIS IN PROMOTING CURRENT U.S. INTERESTS IN NIGERIA, AND I ADD MY STRONG PERSONAL SUPPORT TO HIS REQUEST FOR BUDGET INCREASE. USIS ENJOYS BROAD CONTACT WITH KEY NIGERIANS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND IS A PRIME INSTRUMENT NOT ONLY FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE U.S. AND U.S. POLICIES BUT ALSO AS REFTEL FROM HEDGES TO HORACE DAWSON ILLUSTRATES, FOR SUPPORT TO U.S. TRADE MISSIONS AND TO U.S. FOOD AND OTHER EXHIBITS. OUR CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WHICH IS ALSO SPECIALLY TAILORED TO SUPPORT U.S. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, IS A STRONG, HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE WHICH MAKES A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR EFFORT AND RELATIONS HERE. REGARDING THE PROPOSED REOPENING OF USIS READING ROOM IN ENUGU, WHICH COMMENDS ITSELF ON ITS OWN MERITS, WE SEE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF U.S. AGENCY OFFICE IN THE EAST MIGHT GIVE FMG SOME REASSURANCE AND ENCOURAGE MORE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF OUR LONG-STANDING REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULATE IN PORT HARCOURT (VICE ENUGU).

2. WE BELIEVE THESE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES WILL HELP PUT FLESH ON BONES OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS CONCEPT THAT SECRETARY HAS APPROVED

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FOR NIGERIA.

3. IN OUR VIEW, ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS COUPLED WITH CURRENT SKYROCKETING NIGERIAN INFLATION FULLY JUSTIFY HEDGES' REQUEST FOR BUDGET INCREASE, AND I STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU GIVE WHATEVER SUPPORT YOU CAN TO THAT REQUEST. BELIEVE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MIGHT ALSO BE WILLING LEND ITS VOICE IN SUPPORT.

4. MATERIALS ON JOINT COMMISSIONS ARRIVED IN TODAY'S POUCH (DEPTEL 122326). WILL UNDERTAKE TENTATIVE EXPLORATIONS AS APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS PRESENT THEMSELVES.

EASUM

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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